

**Open Doors to Federal Courts 2004**  
**The Role of Courts in Balancing**  
**Liberties and Safety**

The theme for the national *Open Doors to Federal Courts* program this year is *The Role of Courts in Balancing Liberties and Safety*. The national event is scheduled November 10 at participating local courthouses. Courts, however, may host the event any day that week or any time throughout the year.

**Target Audience:** High school seniors and their teachers. Courts may want to invite parents and other observers.

**Participation:** Over the past five years courts in every Circuit have registered. More than 350 judges and 40,000 high school students have participated.

**Learning Objective:** The program is designed to: 1) Teach about the role, structure, and operations of the federal courts in an interesting, and interactive way; 2) Put a human face on the justice system; 3) Make students aware of the role of the courts in balancing individual liberties and community safety.

**Registration:** To request registration information, contact, National Outreach Manager Rebecca Fanning at <[rebecca\\_fanning@ao.uscourts.gov](mailto:rebecca_fanning@ao.uscourts.gov)> She also is available at 202-502-2611. The registration form and event resources are delivered by e-mail.

**Materials: Court materials** include: 1) A flexible program framework (agenda) that can be modified by local courts to meet particular needs and interests; 2) Event-day program materials; 3) A one-page list of pointers for organizing the event; 4) Telephone coaching by Rebecca Fanning and veteran coordinators; 6) Posters for the courthouse and participating classrooms. 2) **The teacher materials** include a preparatory, classroom-ready lesson plan and handouts.

**Preparation:** Courts may choose to have a Teachers Institute at the courthouse to 1) provide a program orientation for teachers; 2) to add to their knowledge about the federal courts; 3) and to review the required lesson plan to be taught in the classroom before the event.

